

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Bush Administration Environmental Record at Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Domestic Partner Benefits for Federal Employees: Fair Policy and Good Business."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Com-

mittee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Extracting Natural Resources: Corporate Responsibility and the Rule of Law" on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10:45 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Visa Waiver Program: Mitigating the program risks to ensure the safety of all Americans" on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elaine Ulrich, a legislative fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY PERSONNEL
CITIZENSHIP PROCESSING ACT

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 936, S. 2840.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2840) to establish a liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and to establish a deadline for processing such applications.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 2840

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act".

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE FBI LIAISON.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 451 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 271) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) OFFICE OF THE FBI LIAISON.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be an Office of the FBI Liaison in the Department of Homeland Security.

"(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Office of the FBI Liaison shall monitor the progress of the functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the naturalization process to assist in the expeditious completion of all such functions pertaining to naturalization applications filed by, or on behalf of—

"(A) current or former members of the Armed Forces under section 328 or 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439 and 1440);

"(B) current spouses of United States citizens who are currently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces, who qualify for naturalization under section 319(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1430(b)), and surviving spouses and children who qualify for naturalization under section 319(d) of such Act; or

"(C) a deceased individual who is eligible for posthumous citizenship under section 329A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1440–1).

"(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.”

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall promulgate rules to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).

SEC. 3. DEADLINE FOR PROCESSING AND ADJUDICATING NATURALIZATION APPLICATIONS FILED BY CURRENT OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 328 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) Not later than 6 months after receiving an application for naturalization filed by a current member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a), section 329(a), or section 329A, by the spouse of such member under section 319(b), or by a surviving spouse or child under section 319(d), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall—

"(1) process and adjudicate the application, including completing all required background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security; or

"(2) provide the applicant with—

"(A) an explanation for its inability to meet the processing and adjudication deadline under this subsection; and

"(B) an estimate of the date by which the application will be processed and adjudicated.

"(h) The Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall submit an annual report to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Refugees and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Senate and the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that identifies every application filed under subsection (a), subsection (b) or (d) of section 319, section 329(a), or section 329A that is not processed and adjudicated within 1 year after it was filed due to delays in conducting required background checks.”.

(b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that contains the results of a study regarding the average length of time taken by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to process and adjudicate applications for

naturalization filed by members of the Armed Forces, deceased members of the Armed Forces, and their spouses and children.

SEC. 4. SUNSET PROVISION.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act are repealed on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2840), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OREGON SURPLUS FEDERAL LAND ACT OF 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6370, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6370) to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6370) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

DESIGNATING THE JOHN W. WARNER RAPIDS

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 1053, S. 3550.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3550) to designate a portion of the Rappahannock River in the Commonwealth of Virginia as the “John W. Warner Rapids.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3550) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 3550

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOHN W. WARNER RAPIDS, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The portion of the Rappahannock River comprised of the manmade rapids located at the site of the former Embrey Dam in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and centered at the coordinates of N. 38.3225 latitude, W. 077.4900 longitude, shall be known and designated as the “John W. Warner Rapids”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the portion of the Rappahannock River referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the John W. Warner Rapids.

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 928, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 928) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a McCaskill substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5644) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 928), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZING DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 680, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 680) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has received requests from various law enforcement and regulatory agencies, seeking access to records that the Subcommittee obtained during its recent investigation into how financial institutions have designed, marketed, and implemented transactions intended to enable foreign taxpayers to avoid taxes on U.S. stock dividends.

This resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide records, obtained by the Subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to these requests and any similar requests from government entities and officials with a legitimate need for the records.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 680) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, read as follows:

S. RES. 680

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted an investigation into how financial institutions have designed, marketed, and implemented transactions intended to enable foreign taxpayers to avoid taxes, on U.S. stock dividends;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received requests from law enforcement and regulatory agencies for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or foreign governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into how financial institutions have designed, marketed, and implemented transactions intended to enable foreign taxpayers to avoid taxes on U.S. stock dividends.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to